

This 40 acres is needed by the Alpine Elementary School District to construct school facilities and related playing fields. The U.S. Forest Service has the authority, under the Townsite Act of 1958, to sell this acreage to the school district because no private lands exist for purchase. The school district is very willing to purchase these lands, however, the prohibitive costs of \$7,500 per acre prevents the district from buying the needed acreage.

Eight-five percent of Apache County is federally controlled land. As a result, school districts rely heavily on proceeds from timber harvesting. Unfortunately, with the continued success of extreme preservationist efforts to halt all logging in most Western States, the Alpine Elementary School District's revenues have fallen sharply. Without this conveyance, they would not be able to afford to construct any facilities after acquiring the land.

My legislation stipulates that the school district can only use this land for school facilities. In addition, the school district will bear the costs of performing a survey to determine the exact acreage and legal description of the property.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

STATEMENT BY PEOPLES ACADEMY STUDENTS ON COSTS OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by Bethany Carpenter, a high school student from Brattleboro, VT. She was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

My name is Bethany Carpenter, and first of all I just want to say thanks for letting us come today.

"The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow." How many times has that phrase been stated in one form or another, it seems to carry no meaning anymore. But what a true statement it is. Sadly, this statement soon will not be truthful. Many of the leaders of tomorrow are losing the opportunity to become leaders due to the lack of support for a post-secondary education.

Over the past year, I have gone through the process of looking at colleges; choosing a select number to apply to; applying; waiting for responses; and most importantly, sending for financial aid. My top choice school is a small university in upstate New York specializing in theater arts and elementary education. Unfortunately, this school costs \$24,000/year. Therefore, I am forced to choose between my top choice school, which will better prepare me for my future career, or a somewhat large college in Central Vermont, which will cost less but will not provide me with the specialized education that my top choice would. To me, this is the most disappointing part of my application procedures.

The total post-secondary enrollment in this country has been rising rapidly in the past years, while the federal support for post-secondary students has been decreasing. High school students have been feeling more pressure to continue their education beyond their twelve years due to the lack of availability of high-paying jobs for high school

graduates. In today's high-paced world, those who have completed more years of schooling typically experience less unemployment than other workers.

In addition, workers' earnings are generally increased as their level of learning increases. In the latter half of the 1970's, the average male college graduate earned about 50% more than the average high school graduate. By 1994, the premium paid to males with college degrees had risen to 81%. Similarly, the average wage advantage of female college graduates over female high school graduates grew from about 41% to 77%. In 1994, the average earnings of male workers 18 years or older with a bachelor's degree was \$46,278, compared to that of high school graduates was only \$25,038. In the same year, the average earnings of female workers with a bachelor's degree was \$26,482, while that of a high school graduate was only \$14,995.

The increase in salaries for college graduates over the past 15-20 years shows the need for a post-secondary education in today's society. Federal support in the form of student aid reached a high in 1980, with 83% of aid awarded in federal funds. That support has dropped to 75% in 1993. The enrollment of post-secondary students increased from 8.6 million in 1970 to 12.1 million in 1980, and rose to approximately 15 million in 1993.

I have formatted a plan for tuition which will allow more students to attend college. The plan starts with the fact that the United States, in 1995, spent an estimated \$269.6 billion for our national defense, while only spending an estimated \$54.7 billion for education and training. This is less than one-fifth of the amount that is spent on the military, and this is a disgrace! In many countries, higher education is a right, not a privilege. For instance, a fundamental principle in Swedish higher education is that all students who need help to finance their studies should receive assistance from the central government. Can the United States say the same? If the United States government were to take \$69.6 billion of the national defense budget and put the money towards the education and training of America's future, this would open up worlds of possibilities for students, who would otherwise have to forfeit their dream for college.

If the government would make more money available to pay for the tuitions of students in need, more students would be able to afford the other expenses of college. My plan includes setting a basic fee for all students attending college, no matter what year they are in college or the college that they are attending. By doing this, the amount of money paid by any student or family would be lowered, their application process for colleges would also need to be reviewed, and many colleges would need to re-evaluate their expenses and costs. The individual state governments would then need to institute loan and grant programs for the students who would still need assistance paying the basic fee or living expenses while in college.

This plan would involve a major change in thinking and planning on the part of many people involved, but it is my hope that it will lead to a better, more fair educational system for future students. Therefore, it is with a mixture of hope and trepidation and a wish that you consider very carefully my original statement, that "the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow," but only if given the chances to achieve their goals. (Applause)

Congressman Sanders: Thank you. Bethany, that was an excellent and important statement. Let me ask you a question. You mentioned Sweden, and it's true, throughout Europe, and even in Canada, that the cost of higher education is much less because the

government plays a much more active role. Why do you think that's so, that other countries in Europe and Scandinavia, do that—make college more affordable for young people—and we don't do that in the U.S.?

Answer. Many of the other countries that I researched don't spend as much on their military, and these programs and other things like that, and they focus more on the fact that their youth (and even adults who want to continue their education) need to do that, and that that's more important than trying to set up a good army. So they institute a lot more loan, grant and financial aid programs.

Congressman Sanders: So they have a very different set of priorities than we do, is what you're saying.

Answer. A much different set of priorities.

ED LAWLOR TO RETIRE AS NJ LEAGUE PRESIDENT AFTER 42 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ed Lawlor, president of the New Jersey Savings and Loan League, on his retirement.

As chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, it is with great pleasure but also a certain sense of loss that I congratulate Ed Lawlor on his retirement as head of the New Jersey Savings and Loan League.

Ed and the league have always been partners working for solutions as I've pushed for legislative solutions to the many challenges that have faced the thrift industry over the years. From Garn-St. German legislation in 1982 to the latest battle to recapitalize SAIF, I have worked closely with Ed and his relentless pursuit of good public policy has been invaluable.

As a battle-scarred veteran of the savings and loan debacle of the 1980's. I can say it was a relief to be able to turn to Ed for advice. Ed was a rare voice of reason and honesty in those tumultuous days. Let me say that through the darkest hours of the savings and loan industry, I have always been proud of the manner in which New Jersey institutions have conducted themselves. So many times New Jersey thrifts have been asked to foot the bill for those institutions in Texas, California, and Arkansas that caused the lion's share of the problems in the thrift industry.

One of Ed's greatest assets is his sense of perspective. We have here a man with more than four decades of service to New Jersey's thrift industry, 42 years to be precise. Ed's length of service has allowed him to see the broad picture and has put him in the position to gauge how this week's crisis or next week's will play in the long-term.

Most recently, Ed and I have worked together on legislation to recapitalize the Savings Association Insurance Fund and to shore up the FICO problem. I wish we had been successful in a resolution to this problem before his departure. But let me assure you that I will keep up the fight to see that we pass legislation that will once and for all ensure the continued profitability, safety, and soundness of the thrift industry.

Ed has been a trusted and reliable friend and confidant. I thank him again for his support and the exceptional help he and the